

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for garnering information on printer errors, comprising:
a printer incorporating a web server, said web server linked to a network, said printer including:
an error detector for detecting errors in printing functions;
at least one receiving computer in communication with said network, said at least one receiving computer having a memory thereon; and
at least one online error database stored within the memory of said at least one receiving computer, said at least one online error database capable of receiving an error message generated by said printer and conveyed over said network.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one workstation in communication with the said network, said at least one workstation capable of originating a print job which may be conveyed to said printer over said network.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of printers, each of said printers incorporating a web server.
4. The system of claim 3, where said online error database is capable of receiving an error message generated by any of said plurality of printers.
5. The system of claim 1, where said network comprises the internet.
6. The system of claim 1, where said network is comprises a local area network.

7. A method of collecting information on printer errors over a network, comprising:
providing a printer incorporating a web server, said printer comprising an error detector
for detecting errors in printing functions;

attaching said printer to a network, such that said web server is linked to said network;
providing at least one receiving computer in communication with said network, said at
least one receiving computer including at least one online error database stored within a
memory therein, said at least one online error database capable of receiving an error message
generated by said printer and conveyed over said network;

conveying a print job over said network to said printer;
receiving said print job at said printer;
examining said print job for transmittal errors with said error detector;
detecting transmittal errors in said print jobs which contain transmittal errors;
generating a transmittal error message containing details of said transmittal errors;
conveying said transmittal error message over said network with said web server;
receiving said transmittal error message into said at least one online error database by
said receiving computer.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
processing said print job with said printer;
detecting process errors where said processing results in said process errors;
generating a process error message containing details of said process errors; and
conveying said process error message over said network with said web server;
receiving said process error message into said at least one online error database by
said receiving computer.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
printing a document specified in said print job with said printer;
detecting output errors where said printing results in said output errors;
generating an output error message containing details of said output errors;
conveying said output error message over said network with said web server; and
receiving said output error message into said at least one online error database by said
receiving computer.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising attaching a workstation in communication with the printer, such that said print job originates on said work station and is conveyed to said printer.

11. The method of claim 10, where said print job is conveyed to said printer in PCL format.

12. The method of claim 8, where said processing includes converting said print job into RIP format and storing said print job in a job retention memory located in said printer.

13. The method of claim 9, where said printing includes controlling mechanical printing components of said printer to produce said document.

14. The method of claim 7, where said error message is generated in HTML format.

15. The method of claim 7, where said network comprises the internet.

16. A method of analyzing information on printer errors, comprising:
collecting information on printer errors over a network, including:
 providing a receiving computer, said receiving computer including
 at least one online error database stored within a memory therein;
 attaching said receiving computer in communication with a network;
 receiving an error message at the receiving computer, said error message
 containing information on a printing error occurring on a first printer
 and being conveyed over said network by a first web server
 incorporated by said first printer;
processing said error message by said receiving computer;
retaining said error message in said online database, such that said online database of
 error messages may be analyzed by said error information; and
analyzing said online error database to obtain information on printer errors.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving an error message at the receiving computer, said error message containing information on a printing error occurring on a second printer and being conveyed over said network by a second web server incorporated by said second printer.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a plurality of error messages at the receiving computer, each of said error messages containing information on a printing error occurring on a one of a plurality of printers and being conveyed over said network by each of said plurality of printers by a web server incorporated therein.

19. The method of claim 18, where analyzing said online error database further comprises obtaining information on a pattern of printer errors occurring on said plurality of printer devices.

20. The method of claim 16, where said network further comprises the internet.